

ABC NEWS - APOLLO 15 - SPALSHDOWN - (7-7-1971)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo> (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo>)

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From August 7th,, 1971 ABC News coverage of the splashdown of Apollo 15.

ABC News Frank Reynolds and Jukes Bergman report with former astronaut Frank Borman.

- Splashdown at 4:45:53 P.M E.T

Apollo 15 crew:

Commander: David R. Scott

Command Module Pilot : Alfred M. Worden

Lunar Module Pilot : James B. Irwin

[00:00:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo)

we interrupt our regularly scheduled programming in order to bring you the following special report on the apollo 15 space mission here is abc's frank reynolds good afternoon from abc space headquarters in new york with me frank foreman and abc science editor jules bergman apollo 15 is now approximately 5 000 miles out from earth and heading for home moving toward a splashdown point in the pacific approximately miles north of hawaii carrier okinawa is standing by to recover the astronauts and the command module and that should happen in about 45 minutes from now frank the astronauts have already been asked for their most memorable moments during this mission but i suspect the ones they're about to experience will be equally memorable i think probably even more so they've had uh certainly many of them in the last two weeks but stepping out on the carrier is a great experience yes indeed jules there's been a course correction required right frank about an hour and a half ago the astronauts did perform what's called a mid-course maneuver number seven to correct their targeting point it was a slight error they would have landed some 60 miles short of that prime aircraft carrier the recovery vessel the okinawa they did the burn about six feet per second it went perfectly we're now informed by the navy recovery forces that apollo 15 is on target to splash down some 315 miles north of oahu it's been a long day for the astronauts already they were awakened early this morning by capcom joe allen with a raucous hawaiian war chant [Music]

[00:02:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=120s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=120s)

rise and shine it's splashdown day good morning dave good morning joe [Applause] i got everybody up and uh dave's god didn't think that was so funny i'm not sure that i'd appreciate having the hawaiian war chant blast into my ears as you're struggling up out of sleep did they pull anything like that on you frank no i don't believe they did we uh we listened to a country in western music most of the way oh boy well that takes a certain year too i guess well we are less than 44 minutes from splashdown abc's coverage of the flight of apollo 15 is brought to you by tang the same instant breakfast drink that's aboard apollo 15 and by the 3m company 3m people still count here [Music] an amazing two-part ship that goes more than 17 000 miles an hour carries 12 passengers or tons of cargo lands as easily as an airplane and can fly up to 100 missions

and this is not the year 2000 this is 1978. the year the space shuttle begins its work in space tending our satellites servicing a great space station in earth orbit varying its supplies and personnel and if the future is like the present tang will be in its galley orange flavored tang the instant breakfast drink with more vitamin c than orange juice good nutritious tang for space men and earth families frank you've come home twice from space

[00:04:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=241s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=241s)

frank you've come home twice from space once in germany and then again of course in apollo 8 what's it like to know that you're about to end this long journey well it was a great a great feeling and of course on apollo 8 this was we encountered the first super circular entry and there was a certain amount of uh of angst not anxiety but uh awareness uh that's that's a nice term awareness in the whole situation very much aware of the fact that you were going to do something that had never at that time been done before it never been done before and of course we'd worked out the procedures ourselves and we were very anxious that we hit the corridor as you know the the corridor entry corridor is a very critical uh measurement uh on all these flights i recall it seems to me uh frank jules as we remember apollo 8 that you were concerned not only about the hitting the re-entry corridor but also about the appearance that you would present to the world as you emerged from the helicopter there you recall that i recall that that's right i i don't have a very heavy beard and i was kidded to quite a great deal after gemini 7 so i decided that i would be properly groomed on the helicopter how did you uh properly groomed you were and just in case you uh do not recall it as vividly we happen to have some videotape here that uh just might refresh your memory all this happened a few years ago in december of 1968. and a great year goes up from the everybody's sailors out here on the planet well that brings back fine memories it doesn't seem like it was uh almost three years ago ben james walking slowly down the red carpet accompanied by johnson there he is having a very noticeable period frankfort looks as if he is shaved he shaved your head when did you do it in the chopper and the chopper coming back yes this is one of those great plans we had and the helicopter coupe was very nice and brought up but i have ashamed oh you would issue that command before you left more in the form of a request

[00:06:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=360s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=360s)

you left more in the form of a request be interesting to see the way scott uh jim irwin and al warden looked yesterday during the mid-flight news conference a mustachioed heavily bearded dave scott warden and irwin turned up i wonder if they've got an electric razor aboard or just uh will come out uh longbittered well we really don't care uh what their appearance is do we just long as we get a chance to see them as they step out under the deck of the carrier that should happen uh less than 40 minutes from now abc's coverage of the flight of apollo 15 continues after this commercial message if you're a businessman buried under too much information freemicrofilm has a system to get you out from under it starts here with the finders and the keepers 3m microfilm readers and reader printers that find information in seconds and 3m microfilm cameras that keep all that information here 3m also has the planners systems analysts who cut information handling costs with equipment like this 3m com system that cuts the cost of handling computer data 3m has trainers who teach employees how to get the most out of microfilm and maintainers highly skilled technicians for fast professional service whenever it's needed complete microfilm systems come from 3m see them the finders keepers planners trainers and maintainers at your 3m business products center all right we're back at abc space headquarters the latest information from houston and the tracking information that's been received indicates that the astronauts are right on course coming down in the middle of that 30 mile wide corridor that they must find in order to come back to work successfully the weather report from the landing area some 315 miles or so

[00:08:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=480s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=480s)

some 315 miles or so north of hawaii indicates that things are going to be quite acceptable there conditions are officially labeled good visibility with some 10 to 12 miles the wind at about 10 knots and the wave height is said to be about three or four feet and slightly choppy but that does not seem to present any problem of

course on the re-entry uh the astronauts uh come back into the earth's atmosphere and at that point uh frank borman has described the sensation inside the command module is being inside a neon tool because things get kind of hot and the light suddenly becomes very evident as they make that scorching re-entry one of the traditions we have here at abc news is that just before that happens jules bergman re-enters the earth's atmosphere with his own acetylene torch and a heat shield jules we're ready for you to do your stuff frank uh we've pre-ignited the frank reynolds memorial blow torch as part of this demonstration uh it will be a searing and a hot reentry it'll begin some 1100 miles uh east of the west of the target point smack over australia when apollo 15 arcs in to begin encountering the earth's thicker atmosphere at about four hundred thousand feet and then is when the heat shield the phenolic epoxy a plastic resin begins to do its job of soaking up the heat and this model made from exactly the same kind of uh plastic it's a honeycomb structure it shares away it physically ablates and the astronauts will see as we think frank borman did bits of plastic particle sailing past their window let's see if we can reignite this torch there we go and it physically burns up and ablates somewhat like that uh sailing past the window it acts like a heat sink cooling down the 5000 degree fahrenheit temperature they encounter on the way back in uh this is this by the way is exactly uh what the material looks like the plastic blocks are filled in here if we can see that again plastic is inserted into

[00:10:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=601s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=601s)

see that again plastic is inserted into this honeycomb titanium steel structure uh frank gorman did you actually see the plastic and burning as it went by yes jules you could see bits of uh the heat shield breaking off and coming past the windows and of course uh equally impressive was the reaction jets that maintain your attitude during entry they fire quite frequently and they're loud and uh quite uh visible from the cockpit was that much conversation in the cockpit as you can see well i as you know jim lovell and i had both flown before jim had flown twice and we were as we approached entry we were joshing bill anders about what it was going to be like and then kind of overplaying what we thought it was going to be like as we really entered on apollo it was so so impressive that the gem and i were quieted and our eyes got a little large themselves so i think bill ended up the the winner and that that to go around the sensation i suppose is probably quite similar but there's a big difference between coming back from a lunar mission is there not and and say an earth orbit to a re-entry well there certainly is there's a large difference the g-forces are quite a bit heavier on the lunar entry you have a great more uh amount more energy to absorb and of course the uh ranging that you do in apollo is much more uh controlled and over a longer period than we did in gemini i think jules ought to demonstrate that speed is much greater to begin with we just heard word from apollo control that they're now about 3 300 miles out the speeds built up to something like 20 000 miles an hour it'll get as fast as 25 000 miles an hour and of course what's happened here is the earth gravity draws you in frank as you know and you get start going faster and faster until you hit that maximum speed of around 25 000 miles an hour or 36 000 feet per second as mission control will describe it and about 21 minutes from now at about 15 minutes before splashdown here's what's supposed to happen they'll separate from the service module like this including that scientific instrument module those cameras and instruments they got material on the

[00:12:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=721s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=721s)

and instruments they got material on the moon with they separate from the service module at a 45 degree angle they are heads down by the way we couldn't see the angle the hatch and the windows facing down they separate the service module pulls away on its reaction control thrusters and then they face themselves down and they've already been at about a six and a half degree lifting angle and start the actual hot part of the re-entry as we described it with the heat shield very hard it is too and they'll be out of communications after they come in for about three minutes 35 seconds or so before we actually get the confirmation that they've come through the earth's atmosphere and are about to descend well splashdown is now about 33 minutes and 40 seconds or so from now abc's coverage of the flight of apollo 15 will continue after this commercial message the lunar rover isn't very big or very fast it hasn't got leather upholstery or 300 horses under the hood but it's the most amazing land vehicle ever invented because the land it drives on is the moon and when it goes there tang goes too orange flavored tang the instant breakfast drink with more vitamin c than orange juice good nutritious tang for space men and earth families [Music] what happens

inside your system to plane aspirin and buffering this illustrates most of buffering with its extra speed is already going to your headache when most of plain aspirin is still in your stomach so with bufferin there's less to upset your stomach when there's more pain reliever going to your headache buffering faster to your headache better for your stomach 32 minutes and 25 seconds or so before splashdown now the the trajectory as they come in

[00:14:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=840s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=840s)

now the the trajectory as they come in to uh from deep space is also different of course in this mission as it is in all lunar missions jules i think you might uh might be a good idea to demonstrate that too we had them uh we had irwin scott and warden starting that re-entry coming back into that six and a half degree angle facing down to the local horizontal or the horizon and then they start sailing down some thousand miles uh west of uh the wet landing area near just about over australia and continue the descent speed built up and we're gonna let frank borman continue to describe how you can actually govern or control where you land frank show us yes this apollo is an amazing vehicle although it has no wings it does generate lift we can use this pin as a lift vector or the way that it's it's propelled due to its aerodynamic shape as it reenters the earth's atmosphere you enter with your head down but the lift vector up you actually go down and dig into the atmosphere are swung back up and then in a very critical maneuver the spacecraft rotates 180 degrees to pull you back down to the ocean and as you start back down then it rotates again 90 degrees and then you modulate your range where you are going to hit in the ocean by rotating back and forth and essentially banking as you would in an airplane and controlling your impact point if you come in too steeply the impact is just too strong and yet if you come in too shallow of course while you skip right we're getting the word now from apollo control by the way that they're yawing the spacecraft and the service module for that separation from the service module here's our first glimpse now of the okinawa let's go downrange uh here we are 315 miles uh north of hawaii the prime recovery vessel the aircraft carrier the navy calls it an lph or a landing pad helicopter okinawa uh weather looks good certainly does that ocean even more important to the crew that ocean looks calm four foot wave wave heights and a fairly gentle seven or eight knot wind

[00:16:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=961s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=961s)

gentle seven or eight knot wind where are we getting this picture from a helicopter yes must be in this apparently a helicopter relayed to the portable uh satellite communication station on the carrier then up to one of our unmanned spacecraft an unmanned satellite relaying it back to this country the okinawa is steaming uh on station it's an 18 000 ton carrier just about 10 years old one of the few modern vessels the navy seems to have these days what did you land on frank the yorktown wasn't it yes yorktown yes you know i was up in boston the other day and uh happened to see it's been decommissioned now and i had an old nostalgic twang as i saw it laying there being dismantled at the boston naval yard it's a good day they were talking about uh 40 cloud cover at 2 000 feet uh and it looks just about that uh little private messaging they're coming up on the separation burn now they separate from the service module uh 10 seconds it's a beautiful day out here in the pacific the primary recovery force in canal some audio tangled all right let's get a report now from correspondent dave horowitz on the okinawa the water temperature is 77. we have some showers during the night but we don't expect any more there's a thin band of high clouds over about a 250 mile area in the recovery zone and this could hamper visual sighting of those main parachutes that will carry the command module to splashdown but weather is not expected to cause any problems in recovery the seas are smooth they've been in some time and everyone is in position this is david horowitz support the uss okinawa and uh as the okinawa steams on station we're awaiting

[00:18:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=1080s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=1080s)

we're awaiting confirmation from apollo control their separation confirmation of separation so they've let go of that big service module that's been as it were their store for life giving oxygen water batteries and electrical power and all those scientific instruments and cameras they carried around the moon for so many days with them and the spacecraft is now due to come up over on australia to begin the toughest part of the reentry

actually frank it's probably the toughest part of the flight for the apollo command module itself isn't it yes it is and it's also the most strenuous part of the flight for the crew from the standpoint of physical forces on the body you said you encountered as much as eight g's or eight times your own weight for a short pulse there a short pulse during this dip that we talked about and then after that it levels off to about four g's the thank you have a good set good separation service they pulled away from the service module one of the phenomenal things is how lucky these recoveries have been on all these apollo flights frank they always seem to manage to come down in between typhoons in the pacific palm season the okinawa has been on station of course for some time now looking forward to uh the moment very shortly from now when they will actually accomplish their mission and for a report now on the activities on the okinawa prior to this day here again is correspondent horowitz

[00:20:07 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=1207s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=1207s)

here again is correspondent horowitz for a week this recovery team has covered more than 4 000 miles in the pacific rehearsing for today's splashdown almost every other day they practice in this scene most helicopters were a few miles away hovering over the simulated recovery area and the deck looked quiet but inside the ship was drilling intensely as though each exercise was a real splashdown every possible complication to a normal recovery challenged swift and precise reaction captain andrew huff commands his prime recovery shift counter report [Music] ah [Music] well i think if we go on down this way about four hours uh four miles we'll uh get in the clearing away from these rain showers be in good position all right guys it only takes about four miles yeah now if you think we'll be well clear of the rain by that time all aircrafts are airborne much of the job of recovery is done below decks where dozens of men in partially lighted rooms plot the course of the ship the aircraft and the command module [Music] complicated charts have every foot of the 300 square mile recovery area sophisticated radio equipment provides contact and the wireless communications are converted to charts so that everyone can

[00:22:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=1320s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=1320s)

converted to charts so that everyone can see what's happening constant communications with houston's mission control center is maintained by nasa's recovery supervisors but the okinawa's prime job is launching and supporting helicopters which will bring the astronauts to a happy landing on the ship [Music] uh my tickets again okay helicopter squadron 1 from imperial beach naval air station in california has never recovered any astronauts before but since it was formed in 1948 it has rescued more than 1500 gis and civilians this job is probably their most complicated and they've been training for it for months so the primary recovery ship the helicopter squadron and all those involved in this complicated recovery in the pacific are standing by and ready to pick up the apollo 15 astronauts as they return to earth from man's longest and most challenging mission to the moon this is david horowitz aboard the uss okinawa all right thank you very much uh that was a videotape uh report on the activities of onboard the okinawa prior to the actual splashdown we are now 22 minutes and 31 seconds from that point of splashdown abc's coverage of the flight of apollo 15 will continue after this commercial message

[00:24:07 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=1447s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=1447s)

for thousands of years man has yearned to touch the stars to touch them the dream of centuries growing closer with each year in a few years part of that dream is going to come true a great space station orbiting the earth an artificial world where a dozen men will live for six months at a time unlocking the mysteries of space and probing the earth's resources as man never could before and even as they do what man has never done they will do the things that all men do sleep grow hungry daydream laugh and when the clock says breakfast they will probably begin with tang the orange flavored instant breakfast drink with more vitamin c than orange juice good nutritious tang for space men and earth families [Music] we'll be back with more on the flight of apollo 15 after station identification shirley mclean stars in shirley's world in september on abc

[00:26:21 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=1581s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=1581s)

abc's coverage of the flight of apollo 15 is being brought to you by tang the same instant breakfast drink that's aboard apollo 15 and by buffering so fast to your headache so gentle on your stomach back at abc space headquarters this is frank reynolds with frank gorman and jules bergman the latest word from mission control in houston to apollo 15 a short message you're looking good and looking good they are indeed jules and they're about six and a half minutes from the beginning of that searing reentry some 19 and a half minutes from splashdown scheduled to take place uh 315 miles north of oahu uh with the prime aircraft carry the prime recovery carry on the okinawa standing by uh together with a navy attack oil or a tanker to help out in case it's needed we understand that's not the only thing standing by out there frank yes the word is that there's a russian uh seagoing tug the malpha which ironically enough was built in texas during the war only about 100 miles east of uh houston here we're looking at live pictures now from the uh cameras trying to protect the of the okinawa this russian tug has been following the recovery ships for the past uh 24 hours we're told now it's about i was some two to five miles away from the okinawa i don't think i'd see anything necessarily sinister in that do you practice no i don't think so i want to get in on the show they'd like to see the thing come down well probably the most interesting thing about it is the russians want to watch our techniques maybe they still plan to uh land men on the moon as they say they do of some day in the future well although all the uh the old

[00:28:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=1680s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=1680s)

well although all the uh the old antagonisms remain or at least some of them uh made some great progress lately with the russians particularly in the area of space flight i think that's one of the uh great hopes uh that this will be an arena where we can cooperate and uh i think that to date we've done fairly well right that was something uh you started frank foreman you were on the original negotiating team with the russians and now it looks like we are going to have a joint rescue capability uh with apollo and soyuz and salute spacecraft able to dock with one another let's listen the air force apollo range aircraft calling apollo 15. no signal yet what happens here of course is the spacecraft is now around the curve of the earth too low for its radio signals to reach uh direct back to the nasa tracking station so air force kc-135 or 707 airplanes they call these auri aircraft act as flying relay stations and uh pick up the calm communications from the crew apollo 15 actually begins its uh entry in the neighborhood of australia right about four minutes from now and they've now built up to pretty near maximum velocity of 25 000 miles an hour uh must feel pretty good frank when you hear one of those air force k birds or kcs calling you it is that we did have trouble with the uh k c-135s or the aria airplanes on our mission but they've been better with every succeeding mission right and uh we are about three minutes away now from re-entry into the earth's atmosphere we're looking at the view of the pacific skies from the deck of the okinawa for another report from the okinawa let's go to correspondent dave horowitz with about three minutes away from entry

[00:30:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=1801s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=1801s)

with about three minutes away from entry interface okinawa is about 332 miles north of honolulu and in position for the splashdown of apollo 15. five helicopters taking part in the recovery the astronauts are now in position near the ship the weather out here is not perfect but it's almost perfect there are scattered clouds which could obscure the vision of the command module on those large parachutes that will generally lower it down in the pacific the weather is not expected to cause any problems with that recovery the seas are a little smoother than they've been in some time the temperature out here is fairly warm 80 degrees humidity about 67 water temperature at 77. there was some rain during the night but our weather forecaster tells us that there's no fear of any rain in the area during the recovery everyone is on station on the okinawa david horowitz reporting from aboard the uss okinawa iran station and some of them anyway seem to be quite thoroughly relaxed well they've been out there a couple of weeks practice and this is this is probably the most exciting thing outside of spurious submarine signals they pick up for some time and uh we're like a minute and a half away from uh the beginning of re-entry over australia for apollo 15. spacecraft now at its maximum speed of more than 25 000 miles an hour and about to sail into the earth's atmosphere as it were velocity 35 710 feet per second range to splash 1725 nautical miles right over australia and just about 25 000

miles an hour getting very little in the way of communication between the spacecraft interesting this is the one point in the flight where the ground is really of not much use the energy interchange is so rapid that we never worry about communications with the ground here there was always great concern from the ground but there

[00:32:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=1920s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=1920s)

great concern from the ground but there was never any concern in this place what happens uh is going to happen anyway there's nothing to be done about it at this point per second range to go 1507 nautical miles 35 seconds to entry just about 25 000 miles an hour see some admiral zumwalt sailors there yes a few beards here and there sideburns it's still not a hippie navy though isn't it they probably locked the marines below a deck on tv 1307 nautical miles [Applause] over australia now we're watching uh our own abc animation of the entry process the reentry as it will take place for the next uh few minutes until the uh spacecraft emerges from the radio blackout that'll hit it in a few minutes and we'll be able to hear the apollo 15 crew talking here's the searing plethora entry beginning with the heat shield uh soaking up uh the enormous energy and speed we're into the blackout route what do you feel inside the spacecraft right well slowly at this point in the entry the g-forces are building up building up and it gets increasingly difficult to breathe at the depth of the initial pullout you're pulling about eight g's and it's very difficult to breathe but this lasts for only about 30 seconds the crew now is monitoring the entry the autopilot entry with their own their own instruments standing by ready to take over manually in the event

[00:34:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=2040s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=2040s)

ready to take over manually in the event of a computer malfunction the in a moment the spacecraft will be started back up again and those maneuvers that i mentioned earlier the rapid rotations to ensure capture will be taking place inside the spacecraft it's very bright now almost as if you're inside a neon tube temperature outside is about 5 000 degrees inside at 68. right this really was a point of high interest in the mission uh i i don't i hate to use the word anxious because you're really committed it's you've jumped you're off the diving board and you're just there now but uh it was exciting about this time also the moon and our flight the moon came through the uh the window and the stars it was a very exciting part of the film can you tell whether the right things are happening yes you can and i'll tell you we were very concerned that monitoring the entry monitoring system as a matter of fact at about this point i got a glitch and it went the uh indicated that we were pulling way too many g's of course my own census told me that the instrument was incorrect but i think my heartbeat probably jumped about 40 or 50 beats there in a moment we should be getting a call from them right as they get through the ion sheet about another few minutes a few moments auto blackout this is a series of must-do events here you have of course the heat shield has to work the reaction control system has to work and then finally your drogue has to work the main parachute has to work and then i always used to think well after all that worked if you got on the ocean and it had a leak you'd be in deep trouble that's right these are the only moments when well the only moments in the spacecraft is really put to its severest test at liftoff it never achieves these speeds in an atmosphere right nor does it have to float assuming the liftoff goes all right but as you say it all happens here very quickly on our mission we hit so hard that the some water was forced in a vent tube and i got about three gallons of water

[00:36:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=2162s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=2162s)

there's one of the calls going out to the aircraft let's see if they can pick up the apollo 15 crew and we'll hear recovery one swim one or swim two of the three primary helicopters in the area calling in a moment i hope the the ships are in the right place you know this all air force crew can expect the service that we usually expect from the navy well i played the bankers away to wake them up yesterday frank so the navy has to be there should be coming out of blackout now i'd stand by for a call right follow 15 houston and aboard the carrier they can hear an enormous sonic boom as the spacecraft dives through the atmosphere at high speed then slows down that's the crew dave scott's saying that they're agreeing within 10 miles and it's all in fine shape he's comparing his entry entrance to the computer [Music] they've come through the blackout in

good shape through the re-entrance right and it looks like uh literally came through reentry well but uh that mid-course corrective maneuver put them right on the money to get them down close to the carrier and uh assuming the shoots the parachutes aren't hidden behind any clouds with any luck we'll be picking up some with a chance of picking them up in about two or three minutes what happens here is at first at 23 000 feet

[00:38:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=2282s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=2282s)

about a minute and a half from now two drogue shoots come out uh to stabilize the slow the spacecraft a little bit radar contact radar contact from the okinawa those big antennas we saw locked on going range about 100 miles first the two 17 and a half foot drogue parachutes then three pilot parachutes and a 10 000 feet the three huge main uh shoots 83 and a half feet which slow the spacecraft down to about a gentle 21 miles an hour when it uh splashes down and uh you can see everybody on the carriers now beginning to look out watching a western horizon let's get another report from the carrier now and uh the okinawa now has radar contact with the command module endeavor houston reports that it has voice contact with the command module about 30 seconds from now the apex cover 300 pound lid should separate from the top of the command module and the drone shoots those smaller shoots that will pull out those larger parachutes that will lower the command module down up to the pacific should open that's just seconds from now the okinawa is in position about five miles from splashdown all helicopters are on station an excited crew aboard the ship everyone looking up now looking to the skies for the first glimpse of that parachute for the first glimpse of the command module endeavor and the three apollo astronauts aboard still no sighting momentarily those drogue shoots should open this is david horowitz aboard the uss okinawa all right let's

[00:40:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=2400s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=2400s)

aboard the uss okinawa all right let's keep the picture right on there just in case we get a chance to see depending exactly where we may see them [Applause] out of 42 000 people think still pretty small to spot and still you wouldn't see any shoots it's amazing how the picture can be so good on the audio quality uh so scratchy okay should be on the drug shoot now [Laughter] [Applause] 120 degrees uh [Applause] [Laughter] [Applause] and he should be on the mains now but 12 miles visibility and that light cloud cover might just be hiding the uh spacecraft even when the main street

[00:42:14 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=2534s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=2534s)

uh four minutes to splash down and uh they're descending through a round [Applause] six thousand feet you know they're in a light cloud there you should see them pop out in the middle three minutes and 20 seconds let's hear again heading into uh around a puppy cloud bank back we've got two helicopters heading up one of them being the swim helicopter with three frogmen aboard there it is just like that one ship but still no visual sliding of those three big parachutes orange and white and cart it's like one chute is partially collapsed right yeah one looks like it's caught in the shrouds or the other but um it is it is as far as we can tell the center shield on one chute right they're burning off the uh excess oxidizer and fueling from the right have no worries the spacecraft is designed to land on two shoots right no problem it'll just um come down about seven miles an hour faster but no i grew right it was fine

[00:44:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=2642s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=2642s)

as you can see it's still descending pretty gently three shoots were open so they've had a uh it may open again this has been a flight with glitches [Applause] they should be through about uh 1500 feet looked like one of the lines got hung up frank on the suits [Applause] two shoots are open the third shoot's apparently trying to get open there's a good shot dude [Applause] fantastic shot velocity on two shoots is

[00:46:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=2761s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=2761s)

fantastic shot velocity on two shoots is 28 feet per second or 32 feet per second versus 28 feet on three shoots [Applause] it looks like a hard impact spacecraft appears to be all right it hasn't turned over [Applause] back from the morning thank you [Music] and that was their uh little mechanical problem of the day which almost wasn't so little everybody's in good shape dave scott saying seven miles shoes they'll be very interested in recovering the shoots as uh as we see we had a failure on one of them so that i'm sure that one of the things they'll try to do first now is get that shirt did it look like that third shoot was had opened at first frankie it had opened it first and uh [Applause] they're seven miles away from the carrier the command module impacted or splashed down seven miles from the carrier which is uh perfectly close [Applause] we had concern in the past in burning off the reaction control fuel that it might interact with the nylon in the chute the thing that was interesting here was they went into a cloud with three shoots open they started

[00:48:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=2880s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=2880s)

with three shoots open they started burning off the reaction control field they came out with two shoots so i'm sure that this will keep the people real busy for some reason the thing i didn't like was one part of the wow seemed to be hitting one of the other main streets that was open if that had gotten uh folded up it would have been a a very uh serious moment as i pointed out during the decent though we did design the spacecraft to land with two shoots and uh i believe that point was well well taken a great spacecraft and a terrible boat [Applause] about this time on the apollo 8 i was reaching for a nausea bank frank they must have been aware that that third shoot was not up yes they were as a matter of fact i heard them stand they can see the shoots also out the window and then i heard them say stand by for a hard impact although that impact didn't really look hard to me uh i'll consider the spacecraft didn't go all the way under the water as we've had in the past it did hit though it also seemed to hurt uh perhaps it wasn't as hard as it might have been he'll seem to hit between swells rather than chopping into the top of this well an all air force true uh aboard there frank so uh presumably these are the most uncomfortable moments well the temperature was fine at 80 degrees 67 humidity they've got ventilating fans that are on now and the crew is just lying there waiting waiting for the helicopter just occurred to me this is the longest u.s manned space flight except for germany seven with you and jim level flew doctor almost took your record away here

[00:50:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=3002s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=3002s)

doctor almost took your record away here goes [Applause] [Music] frogman [Applause] of the primary frogmen helicopters with the floatation colors [Applause] i think what they're trying to do here is to grab on their shoes there's a life raft i remember when they opened the hatch and a fine young navy frog man looked at me and said merry christmas sir welcome words looks like they wanted that raft down there the first story reports these swimmers will be going swimmers in there to cut the shoots away i think uh you see they ordinarily would be released but they have not gotten release of the shoots from the command module here well something looks like it was longer if you will or more wrong than just the rcs the reaction control system fuel getting over these lines i think it's i think it's uh probably not we would like to recover why is they even speculate now while we're waiting for the swimmers to drop there let's replay that uh splash we can do it in slow motion and at the moment of impact we'll just freeze so that you can see the the impact here at coastal 32 feet

[00:52:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=3121s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=3121s)

the the impact here at coastal 32 feet per second about 25 miles an hour it hits the water that looks like a sizeable impact for me yeah i think they felt that they may have well we ought to uh of course the struts on their couches absorb some of the impact don't they frankly we have never had a landing hard enough to even begin to move those struts really it didn't the honeycomb wasn't used it never has been and it's primarily designed as you know for land landing and we haven't we haven't stroked the struts at all on anything there they go [Applause] here the astronauts have just communicated my voice to the ship that everything is okay they're feeling fine getting back to the procedure the hook will be attached to one of the eyelets on the bottom of the command module in turn will be attached to a line 50 feet long at the other end

of that line will be a parachute about eight feet in diameter that parachute will be opened under water and will serve as what is called the sea anchor doing that job will be almost like opening an umbrella underwater [Music] we haven't seen the russian trawler since before splashdown but we've been informed that the russian trawler is now steaming into a position where he can watch what's going on just off the front of the okinawa

[00:54:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=3242s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=3242s)

the sea anchor is now in position its main job is to prevent the command module from drifting it's incredible as that command module pitches a little bit in the sea which is relatively calm the bottom of it is black when it left earth it was white it naturally was charred during reentry it's surprising that the command module endeavor is as bright and shiny as it is in the past that gold mylar coating has come back a little singed and browned there are five windows in the module at this point what the astronauts have probably done is turn their ventilating system on and now inflate it manually a switch which activates an air compressor and then place some bags nylon bags which will help further keep the module in an upright position although there's no danger of the module either tilting on its side or turning over in these calm seas out here in the civic [Music] and we can see the swimmers working in the water around the endeavor command module we suspect they'll try to cut away the shroud lines or unhook them and to say and save the parachute uh although i think probably the flotation collar frank could be in place even with the shroud lines there yes i i

[00:56:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=3360s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=3360s)

even with the shroud lines there yes i i don't know if you noticed they do have one man going after that shoot and i would suspect that they're even delaying the uh the astronauts are perfectly safe and uh comfortable and i their interest now is to get that shoot that failed and it isn't that bad a sea state looks like about three or four foot waves it's good just enough of a rolling churning motion to let them know they're back on earth they will have the shroud or the uh the buoyancy ring on in a moment and i imagine that those shroud lines that remain on the capsule will give them a little trouble but these people have practiced and practiced and practiced and they work with a great efficiency i don't suspect any problem see the some of the frogmen in the water on the side of the endeavor command module there will be some brief ceremonies once the astronauts are actually on the deck of the okinawa this time of course they do not have to go into quarantine that's one change from past missions to the moon as a matter of fact they'll be in uh pearl harbor tomorrow and then uh houston later on to houston that's right so it'll be a speedy return to uh yes houston from pearl harbor there's the collar just stop now they'll have several weeks of uh very heavy work ahead of them telling all the wonders that they've seen and analyzing the rock or helping to point out the rock samples but they'll be able to go home and there ought to be some pretty phenomenal film and pictures they brought back from the moon i imagine we'll see them uh probably uh tomorrow night or the day after um first

[00:58:03 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=3483s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=3483s)

tomorrow night or the day after um first the first pictures uh are due to come out sometime tuesday morning in houston and [Music] when did the first moon rocks get to houston same time as sometimes it was late tomorrow night on a second uh second air force uh c-141 transport fighting some of those pictures dave scott described that one crystalline uh rock and said they found it atop a large brown rock sitting there by itself like it had been waiting for them on a pedestal and a pedestal they've been there millions of years they went to the right place and they've come back to the right place uh if they were really thinking they'd manage to spend a couple days in hawaii on the way maybe that's what joe allen was trying to tell him this morning when he woke them with that hawaiian war chant the uh background intercom audio as we uh yeah russian trolls yes we can't say exactly how far away they are but obviously they're not very far from the okinawa because this picture is being taken from the opening and obviously three and a half miles from the command module and obviously that uh russian trawler tug and had a lot of radio and radio at radar antenna on it i really don't know what they could gain by this though we don't have any secrets in this program and we've gone through the entry of millions yes but do they do they know that and believe that well they know enough

to simply sit there in washington and turn on their television set and watch the whole thing you know they probably think it's all done with animation you shouldn't laugh about that some people in north carolina think it's done by the nation too jewels

[01:00:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=3602s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6Rv80VfBo&t=3602s)

[Music] [Applause] uh correction on that six and a half miles from the command module all right we'll dually note that correction six and a half miles that's not so bad it's close enough and we picked out it there before too long by the helicopters and taken promptly to the deck of the okinawa so the word is good they're back down and before long they'll be on on the deck abc's coverage of the flight of apollo 15 will continue after this commercial message here we are back in the pacific some 300 miles or so north of hawaii as you can see the collar is already around the spacecraft the life raft is there still uh buttoned up i haven't opened anything yet hats will be open momentarily a bright sunny morning and a rolling sea that uh calculated not to produce uh two instant seasickness it's just what after a little after 11 o'clock in the morning and the okinawa the recovery vessel a small aircraft carrier or landing pad helicopter weighing some 18 000 tons is now just a mile and a half or two away from the endeavor command module here

END